(c) Consequent on di-licensing of refinery sector in 1998, a refinery may be set up anywhere in India by a Private or Public sector enterprise. Therefore, it is not the Government, but a Public or a Private sector enterprise, which has to decide on setting up a refinery based on techno-economic feasibility.

(d) to (f) ONGC/MRPL has reported that the economic viability of the high investment requires fiscal incentives and other benefits from the Government of Rajasthan, are required. Accordingly, ONGC/MRPL have requested the State Government to consider the required fiscal incentives and support, for the viability of huge investments in the Well-head Refinery Project. On receipt of a favourable consideration of the incentive package and other support from the Government of Rajasthan, ONGC/MRPL would be able to draw the road map for development of the Refinery.

Many State Governments have agreed to grant consessions to enable companies to set up refineries. The quantuam of incentives may differ as per specific economics of the project, nature of crude, refinery configuration, market dynamics etc.

Delay in supply of LPG cylinders

2372. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of widespread complaints against the dealers of LPG delaying supply of LPG cylinders to consumers for periods ranging from one week to three weeks in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures initiated by Government, to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Government is ensuring that adequate quantity of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is available in the country. LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of

customers registered with the LPG distributors. In the current year (April-January), a total of 46.76 lakhs of new LPG connections and 9.97 lakhs of Double Bottle Connections (DBCs) have been released by the OMCs. The number of domestic LPG customers has gone up from 7.72 crores as on 1.4.2004 to 9.25 crores as on 1.1.2007. However, at times, because of operational problems, occasional backlogs do occur. OMCs have reported a backlog of one to four days in five States due to disruption in supplies on account of heavy rains, heavy snowfall in Jammu-Srinagar Highway, labour unrest in Kerala resulting in closure of bottling plants and increased demand on account of Holi festival. Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in these States by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours.

While OMCs are making all efforts to meet the genuine demand of the customers registered with the LPG distributors, they have reported 59 established cases of delay in supply of LPG refill cylinders by their LPG distributors during the year 2006-07 (1.4.2006 to 28.2.2007). Action against the erring distributors is taken in accordance with the provisions under the LPG Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

Subsidy on LPG and kerosene oil

†2373. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the subsidy being provided on LPG and Kerosene oil will merely continue till 31st March, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering on any new policy for giving subsidy on LPG and kerosene oil;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (e) Government is administering the PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG Subsidy Scheme,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.